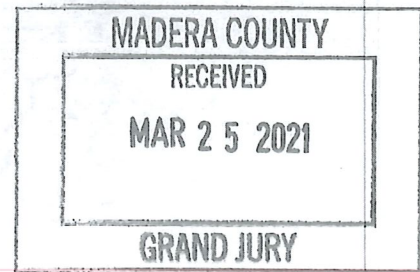
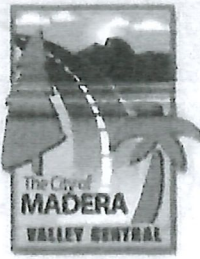


March 17, 2021



The Honorable Michael Jurkovich, Supervising Judge
Supervising Judges of the Grand Jury
Madera County Superior Court
300 South G Street
Madera, California 93637

**Re: City of Madera Response to Madera County Grand Jury
Madera County and City of Madera Police Department: Unveiling Truths of Local Law
Enforcement
Report 1920-05; December 21, 2020**

Dear Honorable Judge Jurkovich:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Madera.

On December 21, 2020, the City of Madera ("City") received a letter from the Madera County Grand Jury which attached a copy of the Grand Jury's Report titled "City of Madera Police Department: Unveiling Truths of Local Law Enforcement" (hereafter "Report"). The letter states that the Report would be released to the public "three days after the date of this letter." As such, we view the release date as December 24, 2020.

Penal Code Section 933 (c) requires that the governing board of the public agency (here, the City Council) is required to respond not later than 90 days after the public release date. As required, the City Council of the City of Madera respectfully submits the following responses to the Findings and Recommendations in the Report in the form required by the Penal Code.

FINDINGS

F1: The MCGJ finds that the Madera Police Department works on multiple levels to build and strengthen positive relationships with community members.

Response 1: The City agrees with Finding 1. The Madera Police Department works tirelessly to build and strengthen positive relationships with community members.

F2: The MCGJ finds there are 15 funded positions that currently are unfilled at the Madera Police Department.

Response 2: The City disagrees partially with Finding 2. Given that the finding does not identify the positions or dates, the City does not have adequate information to ascertain how this data was obtained. The finding, as written, provides insufficient information to either agree or disagree. Additionally, we note that the City "disagrees partially" because of the mandated method for response. Regardless, the City strives to fill vacant positions to ensure adequate service levels that the community has come to expect. While staffing may sometimes be fluid due to attrition, the Police Department currently has six vacancies. The City budgeted for these positions and is aggressively working to fill the openings.

F3: The MCGJ finds that Madera County is not effectively handling the individuals Madera Police Department identifies as having a mental health crisis (5150).

Response: The City respectfully notes that this finding pertains to a matter that is not under the control of the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. MCGJ recommends that the Madera Police Department continue to foster the relationships within the community through the efforts already in place and be open to the suggestions brought by community groups and individuals.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The City appreciates MCGJ's recognition of the City's effort to foster and strengthen relationships with our community. The City believes that when it comes to public safety, nothing is more important than trust and mutual respect between Police Officers and the community. For this reason, the Police Department will continue to explore new and innovative ways to connect with our community.

R2. MCGJ recommends that during Fiscal Year 21/22 currently open positions at the Madera Police Department be filled.

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented but the City plans to implement it when it adopts the Fiscal Year 21/22 Budget.

R3. MCGJ recommends that the Madera Police Department immediately work with the Madera County Board of Supervisors to provide adequate mental health services.

Response 3: This recommendation has been implemented. More specifically, earlier this year, Police Chief Lawson attended a meeting with the Madera County Mental Health Department where the focus was on improving mental health services. The Police Department is also assisting the Mental Health Department pursue mental health grant opportunities.

Thank you for your service to the community. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Arnoldo Rodriguez
City Manager
City of Madera

c: Foreperson, Madera County Grand Jury, PO Box 534, Madera, CA 93637